UPDATE from the RESOURCE FAMILY ADVISORY BOARD

The Resource Family Advisory Board met face-to-face in Anchorage in October and during that meeting focused on several of its initiatives for the 2016-2017 year. First, it met with the OCS Leadership Team, including Director Christy Lawton, to present some of the concerns that foster parents have been expressing to the Board over the year. RFAB also presented its draft of the Resource Family Bill of Rights which featured 13 rights that foster parents have under policy and procedure. RFAB and the OCS Leadership Team discussed ways to get the word out about the Bill of Rights once finalized, including messaging the importance of these rights to OCS caseworkers and staff. The Bill of Rights should be official and available by Spring of 2017. Director Lawton also gave an update to the Board about the Child and Family Services Review, changes in ICWA placements after passing the House Bill 200, changes with the Education Stability Act and budding legislation for worker caseload caps.

The Starter Kit Project continues to be a focus for the Board with Kits being shared with children and youth coming into foster care in Mat-Su, Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks with some outreach to Nome and Bethel. Do you know a group who wants to help? Find more information on the website or contact a RFAB member or email akresourcefamilyboard@yahoo.com.

The Board will meet again in Juneau on March 29 and 30 with a chance for resource families to call in to express concerns or ideas to the Board. Check back at our website (Go to www.acrf.org and look under the Support Tab.). A workgroup is looking at the process for investigation of complaints or allegations of abuse and is planning on making recommendations to the larger Board at the March meeting. Do you have suggestions of what support you would like to see for resource families? Send them to akresourcefamilyboard@yahoo.com by March 20 for consideration by the Board.

Are you too busy to do training?
We understand and we are here to help!
Check out our Micro-Learning Courses at www.acrf.org

Resource families are busy, so sometimes training has to be completed in bits of time. So the Alaska Center for Resource Families is trying something new—and tiny. Tiny Training Bytes are small snippets of useful information called Micro-Training Courses. Look to our website under the Self-Study tab to find small clips, videos and reading to pack a lot of information into a small amount of time. Sitting in the doctor’s office waiting or the reception area of OCS? Get your phone out, go to our website and watch a short video. Fill out the questionnaire and get your training 1/2 hour at a time.

Watch for our monthly Tiny Training Byte course in your email—January’s featured topic is on “Understanding Diabetes” in children.
Claiming the Federal Adoption Tax Credit for 2016

For adoptions finalized in 2016, there is a federal adoption tax credit of up to $13,460 per child. The 2016 adoption tax credit is NOT a refundable credit, which means taxpayers can only get the credit refunded if they have federal income tax liability (see below).

The credit is paid one time for each adopted child, and should be claimed when taxpayers file taxes for 2016 (typically in early 2017).

To be eligible for the credit, parents must:

- **Have adopted a child other than a stepchild** — A child must be either under 18 or be physically or mentally unable to take care of him or herself.

- **Be within the income limits** — How much of the credit parents claim is affected by income. In 2016, families with a modified adjusted gross income below $201,920 can claim full credit. Those with incomes above $241,920 cannot claim the credit; those with incomes from $201,920 to $241,920 can claim partial credit.

The Amount of Credit to Be Claimed

Families who finalize the adoption of a child with special needs in 2016 (see details below) can claim the full credit of $13,460 on the line that asks for expenses—whether or not they had any expenses.

**Example** — A woman adopts three of her grandchildren from foster care and the state paid all of the fees. All three children receive monthly adoption assistance benefits and thus are considered special needs. The grandmother earns less than $201,920 so can claim the full credit of $13,460 per child for a total of $40,380. How much the grandmother actually receives, however, will depend on her tax liability (explained below).

Other adopters can claim a credit based on their qualified adoption expenses, which are the reasonable and necessary expenses paid to complete the adoption as long as those expenses are not reimbursed by anyone else. If the expenses are less than $13,460, the adopters claim only the amount of the expenses. If expenses exceed $13,460, the maximum to be claimed is $13,460 per child.

**Example** — A couple adopted two children from China and had $40,000 in legal, travel, and agency fees. They received a grant of $20,000, leaving them with $20,000 in qualified adoption expenses. They can claim only $20,000 (not the full $26,920 they might have been eligible for had their expenses been higher). If their modified adjusted gross income was between $201,920 and $241,920, they would receive only a portion of the credit, since the credit begins to phase out at incomes of $201,920.

When to Claim the Credit

Parents who adopt a child with special needs claim the credit the year of finalization. Parents who adopt internationally cannot claim the credit until the year of finalization. Parents who are adopting from the U.S. and claiming qualified adoption expenses can claim the credit the year of finalization or the year after they spent the funds.

**Example** — A family begins adopting a U.S. infant in 2014 and pays $4,000 in expenses in 2014, $5,000 in 2015, and $3,000 in 2016. The adoption finalizes in 2016. The parents must file for the $4,000 spent in 2014 on their 2015 taxes. They cannot claim the $5,000 and $3,000 until they file their 2016 taxes.

**Adoption Tax Credit Webinar**

Have questions about how to claim the credit? On January 31, 2017 at 2 pm central time (noon pacific, 1 pm mountain, and 3 pm eastern), NACAC’s adoption tax credit expert, Josh Kroll, will present a webinar on the federal adoption tax credit outlining the steps to file for the adoption credit. The focus is on filing for the 2016 tax year, but also covered applying for the credit for adoptions as far back as 2013. Josh explains what parents need to do to take advantage of the credit. The webinar is $15 for NACAC members and $20 for non-members. Payment is accepted by credit card or PayPal. Go to [http://www.nacac.org/conference/webinar_confirm2.html](http://www.nacac.org/conference/webinar_confirm2.html) to purchase the recording.
Qualifying as Special Needs

Families who finalized in 2016 the adoption of a child who has been determined to have special needs can claim the full credit of $13,460 as their expenses, regardless of their actual adoption expenses. The credit for all other adopted children is based on the family’s qualified adoption expenses.

Basically, a child with special needs is a U.S. foster child who receives adoption subsidy or adoption assistance program benefits (which can include a monthly payment, Medicaid, or reimbursement of nonrecurring expenses). The instructions for the 2016 tax credit explain that to be considered a child with special needs, the child must meet all three of the following characteristics:

- “The child was a citizen or resident of the United States or its possessions at the time the adoption effort began (US child).
- A state (including the District of Columbia) has determined that the child cannot or should not be returned to his or her parents’ home.
- The state has determined that the child will not be adopted unless assistance is provided to the adoptive parents. Factors used by states to make this determination include:
  - The child’s ethnic background and age,
  - Whether the child is a member of a minority or sibling group, and
  - Whether the child has a medical condition or a physical, mental, or emotional handicap.”

Just because a child has a disability does not mean the child is special needs under the tax credit. No child adopted internationally is considered special needs for the adoption tax credit. Not even every child adopted from foster care is considered special needs (about 10 percent of children adopted from care do not receive adoption assistance support). Those who do not receive any support from the adoption assistance program are likely not to have been determined to have special needs.

Bottom line, if your child does not receive adoption subsidy/adoption assistance benefits, you will likely have to have qualified expenses to claim the credit.

How Much Taxpayers Will Benefit

How much, if any, of the adoption tax credit a parent will receive depends on their federal income tax liability in 2016 (and the next five years). In one year, taxpayers can use as much of the credit as the full amount of their federal income tax liability, which is the amount on line 47 (in 2016) of the Form 1040 less certain other credits (see Child Tax Credit below). Even those who normally get a refund may still have tax liability and could get a larger refund with the adoption tax credit. Taxpayers have six years (the year they first claimed the credit plus five additional years) to use the credit.

People who do not have federal income tax liability will not benefit. We encourage them to file a Form 8839 with their taxes to document the credit. They will then be able to carry the credit forward to future years in case the credit becomes refundable again in the future or their tax situation changes. (If a tax preparer wants to charge extra to file the Form 8839 and you won’t benefit at all with your 2016 taxes, you might want to wait and amend your taxes if the credit is ever made refundable.)

Below are a couple of examples of how the tax credit might benefit families who finalized adoptions in 2016 (these are simplified examples, which do not take into account the Child Tax Credit explained below).

Example 1 — A couple adopted two brothers who had been determined to have special needs. The parents had $6,500 in federal income tax withheld from their paychecks, and their tax liability is $7,000, which means they would normally owe $500 to the IRS. Their adoption tax credit is $26,920, and they can use $7,000 (their tax liability) of that with their 2016 taxes. They get a refund of the $6,500 they had already paid, and can carry over $19,920 for up to five more years.

Example 2 — A couple adopted three siblings with special needs. They had $1,000 in federal income tax withheld from their paychecks, and their tax liability is $0, which means they would receive a refund of $1,000. They have $40,380 in the adoption tax credit, but they cannot use it with their 2016 taxes since they have no federal income tax liability. They should still file Form 8839 with their 2016 tax return so that they can establish the credit, and carry it forward for up to five additional years in case their tax liability goes up in the future or the credit becomes refundable.

Interaction with the Child Tax Credit

If parents can claim their child as a dependent, then they should also look into the Child Tax Credit. The Child Tax Credit and the Adoption Tax Credit interact and may reduce the Child Tax Credit a family can claim. To determine the amount of the Child Tax Credit they can use, a family must complete the Child Tax Credit Worksheet in IRS Publication 972.

Taxpayers who can answer Yes on the last line of the Child Tax Credit Worksheet may be eligible for the Additional Child Tax Credit, which is a refundable credit (meaning they can claim the credit regardless of their tax liability). To claim the Additional Child Tax Credit, parents must complete IRS schedule 8812.

Claiming the Credit

To claim the credit, taxpayers will complete a 2016 version of IRS Form 8839 and submit it with their Form 1040 when they file their 2016 taxes (if you or your tax preparer uses software it should generate this form for you). Before filing, taxpayers should review the 2016 Form 8839 instructions carefully to be sure they apply for the credit correctly. The instructions will likely contain a worksheet needed to calculate tax liability and thus how much of the credit will be received. The form and instructions are available at irs.gov and in the Forms section of this web site.

What If I Have Additional Questions?

If you have additional questions on the adoption tax credit, contact the North American Council on Adoptable Children at 651-644-3036 or taxcred-it@nacac.org.
When we think about human trafficking, we often think of modern slavery where individuals are forced into labor or commercial sex work and moved across borders. But trafficking also happens on a smaller scale right here in Alaska. Sex trafficking of children and youth is defined as the “recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act” where the victim is under the age of 18. For individuals over 18 year of age, force, fraud or coercion must be present but when the individual is under 18, there needs to be no coercion in order for it to be considered sex trafficking. This is called Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children or CSEC.

The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act of 2014 brought these issues to the forefront of child protection. This act requires Title IV-E agencies such as OCS to develop procedure to identify, document and determine appropriate services for children under their supervision who are at risk of becoming sex trafficking victims. OCS has implemented protocols to locate youth missing from foster care including determining why a child was absent from foster care and what happened during that time. OCS also needs to report to law enforcement within 24 hours children or youth whom the agency identifies as being a victim of sex trafficking.

What makes youth vulnerable for being recruited for trafficking? Traffickers have sophisticated ways to recruit and retain youth, including enticing young women and men with gifts, money, attention, and later with fear, abuse, and threats of violence or even death. Youth in foster care can be particularly vulnerable. They may have experienced multiple placements, few attachments, long stays in care and previous histories of sexual abuse and adults failing to protect them. Youth may be recruited by boyfriends, or other youth as well. Almost all victims of sex trafficking have some vulnerabilities that can be exploited or manipulated by the trafficker. Youth who run away from care or are on the street are particularly vulnerable because they might be compelled to trade sex for a place to sleep or for food. Youth in foster care who age out without permanent connections are also at risk. LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Questioning, Transgender) youth are disproportionally represented among the CSEC Population primarily due to being kicked out of their home because of their sexual orientation. Boys are often overlooked as being CSEC victims yet one study in New York City estimated that up to 50% of the CSEC population are boys. Children and youth who have experienced previous sexual trauma and more vulnerable. 70 to 90 percent of sexually exploited children have a history of child sexual abuse.

Recruitment also happens on the internet and in public places like the shopping mall and at school. Studies show, it can happen by adults and other youth at foster homes, group homes, residential and juvenile justice centers, bus transportation centers, in villages, by extended family members, recreation centers, and strip clubs. Recruiters can use promise of a job, a modeling or acting center, a dancing or hospitality career, or recruiters can be boyfriends and romantic relationships who use the relationship to coerce the youth into sex with others. Social media seems to be popular for exploiters to find youth who are dissatisfied at home. Different apps, sharing photos and responding to postings about dissatisfaction at home can all be places where an online friendship might be sparked and a suggestion to meet might begin a relationship that turns exploitive. Offers to get together can turn into chances to run away or party.

Traditionally, the victims of trafficking may be called prostitutes and viewed and treated as criminals. Children and youth may be seen as juvenile prostitutes or criminals and placed in the juvenile justice system. The thinking has changed and we see these youth as not culpable for crimes committed due to human trafficking. Under the law children and teens involved in these crimes are victims, not perpetrators. That means we have stopped using the words child prostitute and reframed it as teen victim. The victims themselves may not see themselves as “victims”. Remember that recruiters systematically break down youth with gifts and money, and then threats or violence. That can form a strong “trauma-bond” between them. Victims may believe themselves to be in love with their trafficker or not be able to survive without him.

What are the possible warning signs or indicators? Remember that this information is useful not only for the youth who come to your home as foster children or for your birth children, it is also useful for recognizing sexual exploitation of other youth you come in contact with—friends of your children, youth group participants, school children, other foster youth, youth you meet in a professional contact, youth you have contact with in day-to-day life. Signs that may indicate a youth might be vulnerable to commercial sexual exploitation include:

- Adult male always present or sudden appearance of an older boyfriend.
- Sudden increase in money
- Change in language or slang used
- Talk about losing property
- Chronic runaway/homeless youth
- Lying about age/False ID/Lying about identity
- Show signs of physical or sexual abuse (bruises, cuts, burns, submissiveness, jumpy, malnourishment); appears fearful, anxious, depressed, overly submissive, and avoids eye contact.
- Carries multiple hotel key cards, lots of money, sharp objects (weapons)
- Tattoo with a name that is not their own; or that he/she is reluctant to explain
- Staying out excessively late or secrecy about whereabouts or communication
- Associating with an older crowd or older men.
Self-Study: Addressing and Preventing Sex Trafficking One Youth at a Time, continued...

In addition, if you are a foster parent of a child or youth who runs away while he or she is in your home:

- Notify OCS of an unapproved absence of 10 hours or more.
- File a report with your social worker or with OCS Intake. You may also contact law enforcement.
- Try to build good communication with your youth. When he or she returns, the social worker should talk to the youth to determine what happened while the youth was away. But you may notice other things or have information about the youth’s state of mind before he or she ran away. Be sure to share these concerns with your caseworker.

To protect your children and your teens, as well as the other youth in our communities, learn everything you can about Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Covenant House Alaska and Priceless are two agencies in Alaska doing a lot of work in this area. Check our website for more information about sex trafficking at www.acrf.org. There is also a National Human Trafficking Resource Center and a Hotline that anyone can call for help, for information or with concerns.

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EARN 1.0 HOUR TRAINING CREDIT IF YOU READ...

Addressing and Preventing Sex Trafficking One Youth at a Time

If you read the above entitled article and want foster parent training credit applied to your training requirement, fill out the following questionnaire and FAX it to 1-907-479-9666, mail to ACRF, 815 Second AVE, STE 202, Fairbanks, AK 99701 or email to acrf@nwresource.org.

Name: ______________________________________________________________________

Provider#: ___________________________________________________________________

Email: ________________________________________________________________________________________________

Address: ______________________________________________________________________________________________

1. There has to be coercion or kidnapping involved when a person under the age of 18 is used for commercial sex purposes to be considered trafficking.

   _____ a. TRUE
   _____ b. FALSE

2. Youth involved in the commercial sex trade should be considered _____________________ not prostitutes. (Fill in the blanks)

3. Recruiters go to where the vulnerable youth are and use techniques to recruit youth. Name two (2) possible places listed in the article where recruiters might look for vulnerable youth.

   a. ____________________________________________________________________________________________________
   
   b. ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Name two (2) listed warning signs that a child or youth might be recruited for potential sexual exploitation.

   a. ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

   b. ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

5. What does CSEC stand for?

   ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

6. Name two (2) groups of youth who are particularly at risk for being recruited for trafficking named in this article.

   a. ____________________________________________________________________________________________________

   b. ____________________________________________________________________________________________________
The Alaska Center for Resource Families would like to thank the following individuals and local businesses whose generous donations made ACRF’s first annual Adoption Celebration and Open House in Anchorage and will make our Spring 2017 community wide Adoption Celebration a wonderful success!

Platinum Level Donors: $301 and above
- Law Office of Stefan Otterson, who donated time and financial support
- Law Office of Dianne Olsen

Gold Level Donors: $101 to $301
- McNall and Associates
- Anchorage Gymnastics Association

Silver Level Donors: Up to $100
- Get Air Anchorage
- Richard Sanchis—Arctic Roadrunner
- Pizza Studio
- Red Robin
- Rich Owens Tastee Freez

The theme of the November celebration was Superheroes, Adopted Like Me. Many children dressed up as their favorite superhero and learned of all the superheroes who were adopted like they were! Each child was given an Adoption Teddy Bear and we had a “super bear” station where children could make capes and masks for their bear buddy. It was a fun time of connection and activities for all the families who participated. Thank you for your support of foster and adoptive families in Anchorage!

Thanks to Pump Up the Kids Donors for Brightening up the Holidays!
A huge thanks and shout out to all the folks that helped make the Pump Up the Kids Campaign in Anchorage and the Mat-Su Valley another big success! Pump Up the Kids allows older youth in foster care to submit a wish list of what they really want for the holidays, and then Alaska Integrated Media and Rock Station KZND get in gear and find community members to fill the list. And what a job they did for over 200 youth in care! A huge shout out of thanks to Mike Robbins, Karlie Wade, and CJ Cutts of AIM, Inc. and all the very generous donors. A special thanks to major contributor GCI for contributing phones and tablets to the effort. BTY Dental and Anchorage Midtown Dental, Alaska’s Worst Drivers, and Family Tree Presents all made generous donations. We thank Diana and the folks at Derma Glow in Wasilla for being the drop off point for Mat-Su and appreciate all the folks at OCS who gathered lists and delivered gifts to the youth in care.

Thanks to generous donations from our community for the Annual Mat-Su Adoption Celebration in November!
The children celebrating 2016 adoptions got to pick from holiday quilts donated by Valley Quilter’s Guild, afghans made by the Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center Knit Witz or fleece blankets tied by the Mat-Su Grandparent’s Support Group and received special pillows donated by Pillows for Kids. OCS arranged for the party room and arcade cards, ACRF provided pizza and drinks and Catholic Social Services brought a lovely cake. In addition, the Extreme Fun Center gave us a discount on the party rooms and our wonderful staff and volunteers made sure everyone had a fabulous time!

18 Resource Families celebrated 26 adoptions at the Palmer Courthouse Adoption Day on December 6.
Caregivers received a corsage, children got a balloon, bear, blanket and pillow, and families got to enjoy refreshments while taking fun adoption photos! Thanks to the following for their support: Office of Children’s Services, Office of Public Advocacy—GAL’s, Valley CASA, Palmer Superior Court, Law Office of Diane Olsen, Tutka LLC, Fred Meyer Palmer, Carrs Wasilla, InkSpot, Special Events Alaska, Valley Quilter’s Guild, Chugiak-Eagle River Senior Center Knit Witz, Valerie Kouvinen and Pillows for Kids Foundation.

Annual Mat-Su Holiday Event for Resource Families
Thank you to everyone that helped make the Annual Mat-Su Holiday Event for Resource Families a huge success. Santa came for pictures, Special Santa provided gifts, Kristan Cole Realty loaned their van, Mat-Su Central let us use their school and provided staff and volunteers. AK Military Youth Academy 2nd Platoon volunteered, The Chugiak—Eagle River Senior Center Knit Witz donated hats, gloves, scarves and afghans, and DFS, OCS, ACRF staff and volunteers add did an amazing job!
FAIRBANKS AREA TRAINING CALENDAR

Unless otherwise noted, All classes held at ACRF, 815 Second AVE, STE 202
Call 479-7307 to register

FEBRUARY

Adoption 101 held Feb 7 from 3:30-5:30pm
Fairbanks Family to Family held Feb 8 from 10-11am
SIDS/Shaken Baby Prevention for Caregivers held Feb 15 from 5:30-7:30pm
Knowing Who You Are held Feb 21 & 22 from 8:30a-4:30pm (OCS, Room 100)
Adopting Through OCS held Feb 21 from 1:15-2:45pm
Core Training for Resource Families held Feb 25 and Mar 4 from 9am-4pm
Motivations for Adoption held Feb 28 from 6-8pm

MARCH

Building Families through Adoption held Mar 8-9 from 6-9pm & Mar 11 from 9am-4pm.
Adopting through OCS held Mar 21 from 1:15-2:45pm

APRIL

Motivations and Adoption 101 Combo held Apr 3 from 5:30-9:30pm
Core Training for Resource Families held Apr 6,13,20,27 and May 4 from 6-9pm
Adopting through OCS held Apr 18 from 1:15-2:45p
Building Families through Adoption held Apr 24 & 26 and May 1 & 3 from 6-9pm

MAY

Adopting through OCS held May 16 from 1:15-2:45p
SIDS/Shaken Baby Prevention for Caregivers held May 17 from 1:30-3:30pm

Grands Raising Great Children Support Group
There are limited supervised children’s activities available during the group. Please pre-register if you are bringing your children. Group meets the 2nd Monday of every month from 6:30-8:00pm at RCPC, 726 26th Avenue, Suite 2 in Fairbanks. Call 456-2866 for more information.

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Support & Discussion Group
Please refer to http://www.acca-ilp.org/fasd for more information.
**JUNEAU TRAINING CALENDAR**

Classes held at ACRF  
9109 Mendenhall Mall RD STE 6A  
Call 790-4246 to register

**FEBRUARY:**

**Youth Mental Health First Aid**  Friday, February 10 from 8am-4:30pm. Held at the Department of Early Education, First Floor Board Room, 801 W 10th ST in Juneau. **Cost: FREE.** For more information or to register online go to: [https://aktclms.org/Training/Class/101728?bbid=1](https://aktclms.org/Training/Class/101728?bbid=1) or call Wendi 907-264-6224 or wendis@alaskachd.org.

**MARCH:**

**Core Training for Resource Families**  Tuesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 9 from 6-9pm and Saturday, March 11 from 9am-3pm.

**APRIL:**

**Adopting Through OCS**  Wednesday, April 26 from 6:30-8:30pm

**MAY:**

**Building Families through Adoption**  Wednesday, May 10 from 6-9pm and Saturday, May 13 form 9am-4pm.

**Core Training for Resource Families**  Tuesday, May 16 and Wednesday, May 17 from 6-9pm and Saturday, May 20 from 9am-3pm

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**The Ketchikan Community Partnership on FASD presents**

**Breaking the Cycle:**

A Training, Conference and Community Dialogue  
Sunday, February 19—Tuesday, February 21 **IN KETCHIKAN**

Sunday 5-7pm at Southeast Alaska Discovery Center: Documentary followed by speakers talking about the lived experience of FASD. (Refreshments provided)

Monday 8:30am-4pm at Ketchikan High School: Speaker presentations will focus on describing the physiology of FASD and related signs and symptoms, increasing educator effectiveness with FASD population, and transitioning from school to the real world; panel discussion will include parents, teachers, and those affected by FASD.

Monday 5:30-7:30pm at Ted Ferry Civic Center: Speaker presentation will focus on legal issues related to FASD; panel discussion will include community members with focus on enacting social change regarding FASD. (Light dinner provided)

Tuesday 9am–1pm at Ted Ferry Civic Center: Panel discussion with goal of creating community interagency action plan. (Breakfast and lunch provided)

Free and open to the public. For more information contact Danielle Ludwigsen 907-228-9493 or dludwigen@kictribe.org.

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**Tundra Women’s Coalition presents**  
**What to Do When you Don’t Know What to Do**  
Join Addy Peters with AK Child and Family for this two-part training. Attend one or both sessions.

**Saturday, February 4th from 9am to 4:30pm **IN BETHEL**

Morning Session 9am-Noon: Calming Children in Crisis Understand the build up to escalation and how to intervene before the blow up occurs. Learn de-escalation techniques for when the crisis has already begun.

Afternoon Session 1:30-4:30pm: Skills and Strategies for When You Are Stuck Learn new skills and strategies to help deal with challenging and tough behaviors youth may have during placement.

To register call ACRF at 1-866-478-7307 or email acrfsc@nwresource.org.
Mat-Su Training Calendar

Adoption Learning Path

Core Training for Resource Families Part One
Must also take Core Part Two in order to get complete credit for this class.
Jan 21 from 10a-6p or
May 1, 8, & 15 from 6-9pm

Core Training for Resource Families Part Two
Must also take Core Part One in order to get complete credit for this class.
Feb 18 from 10a-6p or
June 5, 12, & 19 from 6-9pm

Relative Core Training
Jan 23 & 26 from 9am-1pm or
Mar 21, 23, & 28 from 6-9pm

Building Families through Adoption
Feb 6, 8, & 10 from 9am-Noon or
Apr 15 from 10am-6pm

Adoption through OCS (held at OCS in Wasilla). Apr 27 from 6-9pm

Statewide Rural Teleconference Training

Feb 8, Noon-1pm:
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Prevention for Caregivers, Rachel Hanft, ACRF and Becca Wachter, Fairbanks Regional Public Health

Feb 21, 7-8pm:
ADHD: What You Need to Know, John Bennett, ACRF

Mar 21, 7-8pm:
Some Basic Information on Sensory Processing Disorder, John Bennett, ACRF

Mar 22, Noon-1pm:
Promoting Normalcy for Youth in Foster Care, Aileen McInnis, ACRF and OCS Staff

Apr 11, 7-8pm:
Talking to Older Children About Adoption, Ruth Post, ACRF

Apr 19, Noon-1pm:
Legally Free Children and the Heart Gallery, Brenda Ursel, ACRF and Catholic Social Services Staff

Apr 24, Noon-1pm:
De-Escalation Skills Pt 1, Kimberly Mouriquand, Denali Family Services Trainers: Jonathan Bow-er & Brittany Mallasch

Jun 13, 7-8pm:
Shaken Baby Syndrome Prevention for Caregivers, Rachel Hanft, ACRF and Becca Wachter

Jun 21, Noon-1pm:
De-Escalation Skills Pt 2

The following classes held at LINKS Mat-Su Parent Resource Center, 3161 R Palmer-Wasilla Hwy in the Regan Building in Wasilla. Contact Betsy Woodin at 376-4678 to pre-register. No childcare available.

PATHS TO ADOPTION: This 2-hour class repeated monthly after Foster Parent Orientation: 1/18, 2/15, 3/15, 5/17, or 6/21 from Noon-2pm. Information about Alaskan children are legally free—Catholic Social Services, Wendy’s Wonderful Kids, ACRF Parka Program and the Heart Gallery.

Parent Support Group held 2nd Monday each month, 6-7pm at LINKS. Contact Amber at 373-3635 for more information.

The Survivors of Suicide Meet at the Turn A Leaf Thrift Store bldg. in the conference room from 7-9pm, 400 N Yenlo in Wasilla every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month.

Mom2Mom Dad2Dad meets the 1st Monday of each month from 10:30am-Noon at the Alaska Attachment & Bonding office. Call 376-0366 for more information.

Grandparent Support Group meets 2nd Saturday from 1-3pm, relative caregivers and their children can enjoy activities and snacks. 1st Friday from 10:30am-Noon this is for relative caregivers only (no children) to plan Saturday activities and provide support for eachother. Held at Turn A Leaf Community room next to the thrift store, 404 N Yenlo in Wasilla. Contact David Carry at 1-888-522-9866 or grands@voaak.org or Rozann Kimpton 376-4678 or rozann@mtaonline.net.
Consider Supporting ACRF
By doing what you do every day!

There are many ways to support Alaska Center for Resource Families just by shopping as you normally do, or by choosing to shop at these locations and selecting us as your Non-Profit of choice.

Link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to Alaska Center for Resource Families and you still earn reward points and ACRF receives a donation!

Shop at smile.amazon.com and when you choose Northwest Resource Associates as your charity, ACRF will earn while you shop, at no additional cost to you!

A HUGE THANK YOU TO PAPA JOHN’S PIZZA for making us the Charity of the Month for January! And THANK YOU to all those who ordered pizza in our name and helped us in our fundraising effort. All proceeds will go towards Foster and Adoptive Parent recruitment and retention events.